



Manchester Urban Ponds Restoration Program

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The History of Pine Island Pond



Pine Island Pond 1907

Among Manchester's urban ponds, Pine Island Pond may be most famous due to the historic Pine Island Park.

Pine Island Park

In 1902 Manchester Traction, Light & Power Company opened Pine Island Park – an amusement park with rides, games, a roller rink and dance hall. In addition, swimming, canoe and swan boat rentals were available. Pine Island Park would attract fun-seeking patrons from as far away as Boston. A trolley car line, owned by Manchester Traction, Light & Power provided easy access to the park. Through its duration, the park endured hurricanes and fires, but was ultimately unable to keep up with progress (Clayton, 1993). After struggling for decades, the park closed in 1962.

The current Pine Island Park, a playground and passive recreation area, was once the site of 4-H educational center until it was lost to a fire. It now consists of interpretive nature trails that meander along part of the shoreline, created as an Eagle Scout project. A new playground was also recently constructed at the site.

Pine Island Pond is still a fairly popular and productive fishing and swimming spot.



*Bathing house at Pine Island Pond, 1925
 Photo: Goffes Falls website (Ron Goulet Collection)*



Roller coaster at Pine Island Park. Photo: Goffes Falls website



*Canoeing in Pine Island Pond near the pavilion.
 Photo: Manchester Historic Association*